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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	09/938,452
	Filing Date	August 24, 2001
	First Named Inventor	Figiel et al.
	Art Unit	1714
	Examiner Name	J.D. Anthony
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number	1944. NVF

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
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Remarks _____		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	Charles W. Almer National Starch and Chemical Company
Signature	<i>Charles W. Almer</i>
Date	FEB 4, 2004

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Appl. No.	:	09/938,452
Applicant	:	Edmund W. Figiel
Filed	:	August 24, 2001
Group Art Unit	:	1714
Examiner	:	Joseph David Anthony
Docket No.	:	1944.NVF

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir,

In response to the Office Action of October 7, 2003, for which the time to respond has been extended to February 7, 2004 by the Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, Applicants respectfully

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this paper.
Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.